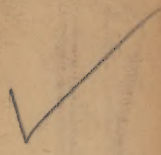


38.

DUP.



REMONSTRANCE

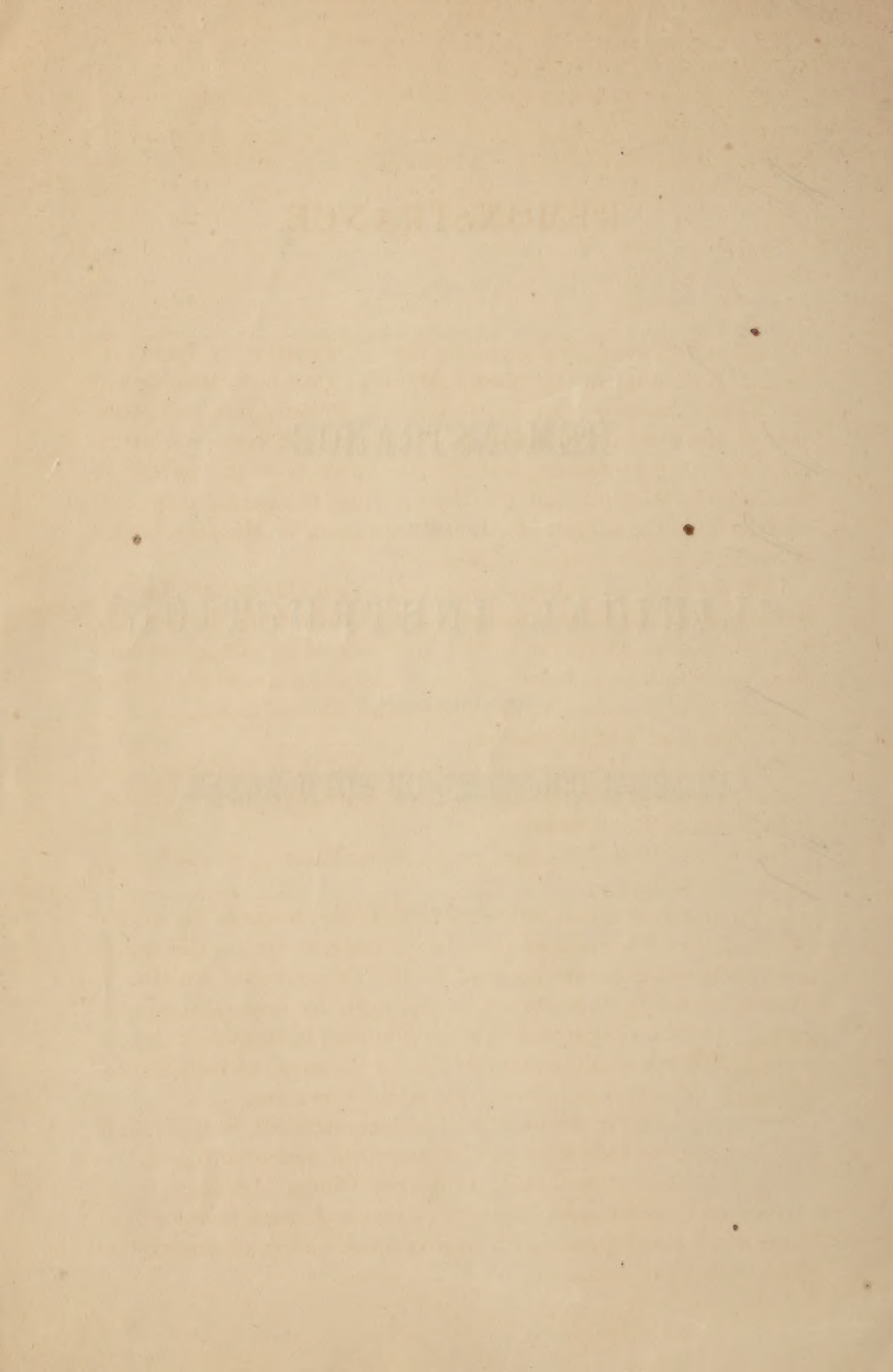
AGAINST

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION

BEING GIVEN TO

CLASSES COMPOSED OF BOTH SEXES.

COLLINS, PRINTER.



REMONSTRANCE.

THE undersigned, Professors in the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Professors in JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, Members of the Medical Staffs of various Hospitals of Philadelphia, and Members of the Medical Profession in Philadelphia at large, out of respect for their profession, and for the interests of the public, do feel it to be their duty, at the present time, to express their convictions upon the subject of *Clinical Instruction to MIXED CLASSES of male and female Students of Medicine.*

They are induced to present their views upon this question, which is of so grave importance to medical education, from the fact that it is misunderstood by the public, and because an attempt is now being made to force it before the community in a shape which they conceive to be injurious to the progress of Medical Science, and to the efficiency of clinical teaching.

They have no hesitation in declaring that their deliberate conviction is adverse to conducting Clinical Instruction in the presence of Students of BOTH SEXES.

The judgment that has been arrived at is based upon the following considerations:—

I. Clinical instruction in Practical Medicine demands an examination of all the organs and parts of the body, as far as practicable; hence, personal exposure becomes for this purpose often a matter of absolute necessity. It cannot be assumed, by any right-minded person, that Male patients should be subjected to inspection before a class of Females, although this inspection may, without impropriety, be submitted to before those of their own sex.

A thorough investigation, as well as demonstration, in these cases—so necessary to render instruction complete and effective—is, by a Mixed audience, precluded; while the Clinical Lecturer is restrained and embarrassed in his inquiries, and must therefore fall short in the conclusions which he may draw, and in the instruction which he communicates.

II. In many operations upon Male patients, exposure of the body is inevitable, and demonstrations must be made which are unfitted for the observation of students of the opposite Sex. These expositions, when made under the eye of such a conjoined assemblage, are shocking to the sense of decency, and entail the risk of unmanning the Surgeon—of distracting his mind, and endangering the life of his patient. Besides this, a large class of surgical diseases of the Male is of so delicate a nature as altogether to forbid inspection by Female students. Yet a complete understanding of this particular class of diseases is of preëminent importance to the community. Moreover, such affections can be thoroughly studied only in the Clinics of the large cities, and the opportunity for studying them, so far from being curtailed, should be extended to the utmost possible degree.

To those who are familiar with such cases as are here alluded to, it is inconceivable that Females should ever be called to their treatment.

III. By the joint participation, on the part of Male and Female students, in the instruction and in the demonstrations which properly belong to the Clinical Lecture-Room, the barrier of respect is broken down, and that high estimation of womanly qualities, which should always be sustained and cherished, and which has its origin in domestic and social associations, is lost, by an inevitable and positive demoralization of the individuals concerned, thereby entailing most serious detriment to the morals of society.

In view of the above considerations, the undersigned do earnestly and solemnly protest against the admixture of the sexes at Clinical Instruction in Medicine and Surgery, and do respectfully lay these their views before the Boards of Managers of the Hospitals in Philadelphia.

NOVEMBER 15, 1869.

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